

## SYNCALYPTA SPINOSA IN NORTH AMERICA.

BY CHARLES W. LENG,

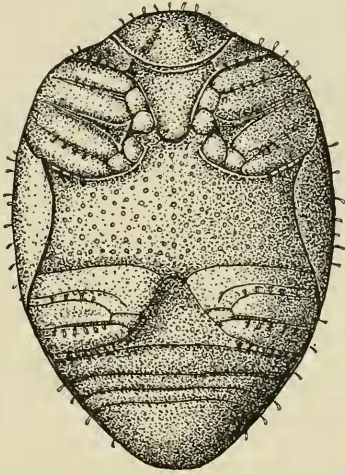
WEST NEW BRIGHTON, N. Y.

It is said in Col. T. L. Casey's paper on the Byrrhidæ (Mem. III, 1912) that the genus *Syncalypta s. str.* does not occur in America. This statement now appears to require modification, for while collecting near Batavia, N. Y., in June, 1916, under the guidance of Mr. Harry H. Knight, and in company with Mr. Wm. T. Davis and Prof. J. Chester Bradley, I found beetles of this genus in abundance. The locality was a lane through the Chapin farm, which had been flooded shortly before our visit, and I was examining piles of rubbish left by the receding waters when I noticed a minute, convex, oval beetle, beset with clavate hairs, crawling on the soil between roadside weeds. Continued search by all members of the party showed that it was not uncommon locally and about fifty specimens were obtained.

The determination of the species has not however proven an easy task; the resemblance to *Syncalypta spinosa* Rossi, common in middle and southern Europe according to Ganglbauer (Käfer von Mittel Europa, IV, 1, p. 86) is so strong that I am inclined to believe our find was an introduced colony, particularly as the western part of New York abounds in colonies of introduced epigæal Rhynchophora, such as *Phyllobius impressifrons* at Batavia and *Barypcithes pellucidus* at Portage. However, Casey mentions the possession of but three specimens of *Curimopsis*, a subgenus of *Syncalypta*, as an example of the rarity of these insects in our collections and it may be that from its rarity, the American species of *Syncalypta s. str.* has heretofore been overlooked.

I have consulted with Mr. Chas. Schaeffer and with Mr. E. A. Schwarz on this point and from the latter I learned of an additional locality for *Syncalypta*, viz.: Suffield, Conn., 1913, the specimen being in the U. S. National Museum, where also additional material in *Curimopsis* may be found. The final decision as to the status of the Batavia specimens must be made in conjunction with the study of these allied forms; but in the meantime it is evident that the genus occurs in America.

*Syncalypta* is an interesting beetle on account of its contractile powers, for not only can the legs be folded up and tucked away into recesses provided for them, but the head can be folded beneath the



Underside of *Syncalypta*, fully contracted, drawn by Chris E. Olsen.

thorax, so that eyes, antennæ, and mouth parts disappear entirely. The adjoining sketch by Mr. Chris. E. Olsen will give a better idea of its appearance than a lengthy description. The European species is said to live in sandy shores by bodies of water.

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## ON SOME NORTH AMERICAN CLERIDÆ (COL.).

BY CHARLES SCHAEFFER,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

### *Cymatodera antennata* Schaeffer.

*C. antennata* Schaeff. Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc. XVI, 128 (1908).

*C. soror* Wolc. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. 144. Zool. Series VII, 342.

The unique specimen from which Wolcott described his *soror* is undoubtedly a male and not a female as it agrees in every respect with my *antennata*. The female has the second and third antennal